REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in the Office Action, and for his time and consideration during a telephone interview conducted on August 10, 2005. As a summary of the interview, the Examiner and Applicant's representative (i) discussed the disclosure of Wheatley (5,212,730), (ii) discussed claims 32 and 78, (iii) discussed Applicant's position, described below, regarding a distinction between Wheatley and claims 32 and 78, and (iv) came to an agreement that the claims substantially as presently amended would be allowable over the applied art and that a Notice of Allowance would be provided.

Claims 32-94 were examined. Applicants have amended claims 32-36, 38-40, 42-43, 45-51, 54-56, 59-67, 69-72, 74, 76-82, 84-86, 88-89, and 91-94. No claims have been added or cancelled. Accordingly, claims 32-94 are again presented for consideration, with claims 32 and 78 being independent. Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and earnestly requests the same.

Claims 32 and 78 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Wheatley. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentable over the applied art.

Wheatley does not disclose or suggest, at least, "comparing each of the multiple phonetic representations of the portion of the text input name to a phonetic representation of a portion of a text known name" (claims 32 and 78). Rather than performing a comparison using phonetic representations of names, Wheatley performs a comparison using a speech signal received when a user speaks an input name, and Wheatley searches for a "pattern match" with that speech signal (see, e.g., Wheatley, col. 8, lines 45-46; and Abstract, line 14). A speech signal is not a phonetic representation, as explained in Applicant's previous reply, submitted on December 21, 2004 (see December 21, 2004, reply, page 3). For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that the rejection of claims 32 and 78 is overcome.

Claims 32-34, 42-48, 51-52, 76-80, and 88-89 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oshika in view of Wheatley. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentable over the applied art.

Oshika does not disclose or suggest, at least, "comparing each of the multiple phonetic representations of the portion of the text input name to a phonetic representation of a portion of a text known name" (claims 32 and 78). Rather, Oshika classifies an input name, selects and applies an appropriate set of rewrite rules to write variations of the input name, and then inputs the variations into a standard recognition system. Oshika does not, however, compare phonetic representations as claimed. The previous reply also included further discussion of Oshika that the present Office Action does not address (see, December 21, 2004, reply, page 3). As discussed above with respect to claims 32 and 78, Wheatley fails to remedy these shortcomings of Oshika. For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that the rejection of claims 32-34, 42-48, 51-52, 76-80, and 88-89 is overcome.

Claims 35-37, 41, 49-50, 53-54, 57-58, 60-75, 81-83, 87, and 90-94 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oshika in view of Wheatley and further in view of Hermansen. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentable over the applied art.

As discussed above, neither Wheatley nor Oshika disclose or suggest all of the recitations of independent claims 32 and 78. Hermansen is not applied by the Office Action to remedy the shortcomings of Wheatley and Oshika, and Hermansen fails to do so. Hermansen describes a variety of techniques for performing name analysis, but fails to disclose or suggest, at least, "comparing each of the multiple phonetic representations of the portion of the text input name to a phonetic representation of a portion of a text known name" (claims 32 and 78). For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that the rejection of claims 35-37, 41, 49-50, 53-54, 57-58, 60-75, 81-83, 87, and 90-94 is overcome.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that the rejections of claims 32 and 78 and all dependent claims are overcome and requests allowance of claims 32-94.

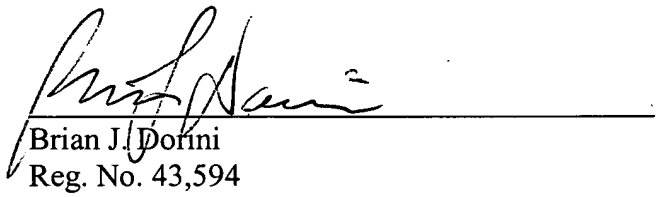
It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue, or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as

an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the rejected claims in further prosecution of this or related applications.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 18, 2005



Brian J. Dorini
Reg. No. 43,594

Fish & Richardson P.C.
1425 K Street, N.W.
11th Floor
Washington, DC 20005-3500
Telephone: (202) 783-5070
Facsimile: (202) 783-2331